



WOMEN IN NAACP (WIN)

National Theme
"Outstretched Hands and Open Hearts to Women and Children"

MI House Tax Policy Committee Chair, Rep. Matt Hall
N 1092 House Office Building P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

August 30, 2021

Dear Tax Policy Committee;

RE: HB 5267 & HB 4270

On behalf of the Lansing Branch Women In NAACP (WIN) Committee, we urge you to support the exemption of feminine hygiene products from the sales tax. The issue of making medically necessary products more accessible is not a Republican or Democratic issue, and it is not about men versus women – it's an economic and quality of life issue. Access to sanitary products while menstruating is essential for women to lead a healthy life; to regularly attend school, work, personal events; and to fully participate in one's community.

On average, a woman will endure some 456 total periods. Periods will continue regularly (usually monthly) until menopause, or about age 51. During this time, as part of this natural process, the average women will spend thousands of dollars on feminine hygiene products to ensure a healthy and productive lifestyle. Too many hardworking Michiganders are struggling to make ends meet, and we should not further this burden by taxing the purchase of products necessary for women and their medical well-being.

There are multiple reasons why we need to make feminine hygiene products exempt. Women with low incomes and women of color are disproportionately affected by this sales tax, as they are paying a higher percentage of their income than middle and higher income earning women. Furthermore and extremely alarming, toxic shock is on the rise due to women trying to save extra money by wearing tampons for far too long.

By exempting feminine hygiene products from the sales tax, millions of Michigan women, families, and households will benefit. Should the state no longer tax feminine hygiene products, these dollars would be placed directly back into the pockets of Michigan's residents to spend in our economy.

It's not political to want a better life for women and their families. Political party preferences don't determine if you need a tampon. Exempting the tax on these medically necessary products is about quality of life. Period. Thank you for considering our comments.

Best Regards,

Fonda J. Brewer

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